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EDITORIAL COMMENT

AT HOME

As we close our pages, a telegram brings us word that the body of Jane A. Delano has been brought back from France, arriving at New York on September 11th, and that it will be buried in Arlington Cemetery at half past two on the afternoon of September 18th. We wish that all nurses who love and honor the memory of Miss Delano might have known of this so that they might unite their thoughts of her at that hour, though there is no need for special thought; she will never be forgotten.

TWENTY YEARS OF THE JOURNAL

This number of the JOURNAL marks the beginning of the twenty-first volume, the end of the first twenty years of its existence. During the past year, Miss Palmer had often spoken of this anniversary and had said that it would be interesting to look back over the road we had travelled and to give a little history of the magazine at this time. No one could have done it quite so well as she, for she had helped to plan for and to establish it, and it had been under her guidance until nearly the end of this period. She had not, however, collected any material for the history; she was an encyclopedia, herself, with her wonderful memory, and could have dictated the entire account, only verifying references from time to time. Her death in April took from us the opportunity of having her own retrospect. The JOURNAL directors, however, wished to carry out her plan and they asked the two others most nearly concerned with the JOURNAL, Miss M. E. P. Davis and Miss Mary M. Riddle to do it. Miss Davis was much shaken by Miss Palmer's death, and by a subsequent illness. She felt that it would be a painful effort to revive the past and asked to be excused. The task then fell to Miss Riddle, who has been treasurer of the JOURNAL board for eighteen years, who has been a department editor at two different periods, who was president of the American Nurses'

Association during several years, and who, therefore, knows its history very intimately.

We are indebted to Miss Riddle for her long years of faithful service as treasurer of the JOURNAL Board and again for this special labor of love in its behalf, for at the close of her vacation period she came to the JOURNAL office and spent a week in going over old files and records and in compiling the material for the history, most of which she was able to write before returning to her hospital duties. One hundred reprints will be made of this history, which may be ordered from the JOURNAL office at cost, by those associations or individuals who wish to preserve the record by itself.

We remember gratefully how much loyal affection has gone into the upbuilding of the magazine from first to last, to how many people we are indebted: to that early group of women who planned for a magazine when Mrs. Robb was president of the Associated Alumnae, to the business men who gave their advice, to Miss Davis, whose labors were unremitting in interviewing publishers and securing the needed stock and the first subscription list, to our first publishers, the J. B. Lippincott Company, who took our venture when it was as yet unproved and who cared for it as for their own, to the superintendents who worked so hard to gather contributions for its pages, to the presidents of the Board, to the department editors who worked for years without remuneration, and to every interested and loyal reader, many of whom began with the first number and are still on our lists. All these have helped make the JOURNAL what it has been and is. Let us carry on and fulfill, not only our own ideals for the JOURNAL, but those cherished by the many who have gone before.

RANK FOR NURSES—A LAST WORD

At the time of the Atlanta Convention, we all thought rank for Army Nurses was an assured fact, because both the Senate and the House had passed the Army Reorganization Bill containing the clause which made such provision. Mrs. Greeley, our counsel, told us the matter had been referred to the Conference Committee which was working out the regulations for the entire Army Reorganization bill, and that it was probably safe.

So she felt, and so we felt, but those who have been receiving the bulletins regarding Rank, know now that there was a final and desperate struggle within the Committee, that though the Senate members stood firm, the House members wavered. It is possible, even after a measure has passed both houses of Congress, to have it so modified in committee that its effect may be lost. Certainly the day would have been lost for us had not Mrs. Greeley been as watchful as

ever and had she not gone back to her work with redoubled energy, interviewing every member of the Committee, getting pressure to bear on those who were not standing by the vote of the House,—and in the end the measure was saved.

After five weeks in conference, during which time the measure was in jeopardy most of the time, an agreement was reached on May 27. The conference report was adopted by the House on May 28, by the Senate on May 29, and was signed by President Wilson on June 4.

The power of applying the regulations regarding rank was lodged with the Secretary of War; on August 10 the Surgeon General was notified that they had been officially approved, and he immediately gave to the Superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps, the insignia of her rank as Major.

The nurses of the country are under a lasting debt to our counsel, Mrs. Helen Hoy Greeley, who has been working for us indefatigably for three years, always with courage, with courtesy, and with good will, but with an energy and a persistence which carried her over obstacles which seemed unsurmountable.

We are also greatly indebted to Anna C. Maxwell of New York City, who has stood back of the work with equal courage and faith and who has raised one-third of the funds which were needed for maintaining an office in Washington and for employing counsel. The work could never have been done by voluntary or untrained effort; on the other hand, no voluntary worker could have thrown herself into the work more whole heartedly than has Mrs. Greeley. We may all rejoice together and hope that the two ends we have been working for will now be accomplished: better nursing care for our soldiers, and better protection for our nurses.

RESIGNATION OF ELLA PHILLIPS CRANDALL

There are some workers who so identify themselves with their task that we get used to thinking of them as inseparable, and such is the case with Miss Crandall and her work as executive secretary of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing. She began her work when the organization was young, and she resigns her office when it is a large, firmly organized and most effective body. Much of this development is due to her effort, and it seems impossible to think of the organization without her guiding hand. She spent much time in travel for the first few years, going from one community to another, making addresses, holding conferences, giving advice to groups of workers, helping to establish unity and efficiency in the many scattered bodies doing public health work. It would almost seem as though Miss Crandall could not be spared just now when

public health work is growing by leaps and bounds, but she probably feels as does a mother who realizes that her child needs to learn greater self dependence and so withdraws to the background. It may be very hard to do without her, but her retirement may bring out latent and needed ability in other workers.

Miss Crandall has been a member of the board of directors of the American Nurses' Association during many of these years, and she has never allowed her other duties to interfere with her attendance at its meetings or to bias her judgment. She has worked for the larger organization with the same loyalty and interest she gave the other.

We know that Miss Crandall was a most excellent superintendent of nurses before she entered public health work. Perhaps after a good rest, she will go back to that field which is calling so loudly for workers. Whatever she may turn to, we shall all follow her with our warmest wishes for success.

THE MEMORIAL FUND

The fifty thousand dollars required to build a memorial to the nurses who died in service lacks about three thousand of being complete. This money, as we already know, has been subscribed almost wholly by the nurses of this country. Much enthusiasm and generosity has been displayed and we do not feel that it will be necessary to make another formal appeal to our nursing resources in order to raise the remainder, but we are asking state officers to present this matter at their meetings in October, with the suggestion that a collection be taken, or a further contribution be made to this fund, also that a request go forward from the state organizations to the district and alumnae associations, for similar methods of coöperation in the completion of this gift to the memory of our sisters.

THE RELIEF FUND

The Relief Fund Committee has been keeping quiet during the time the effort has been made for raising the Memorial Fund, but it cannot let the fall meetings of the state associations go by without stating, however modestly, its need of better support. During the past month one applicant has died whose last weeks were made a little more comfortable by help from the Relief Fund, and one has withdrawn because she now has other aid. Two new applicants have been considered, however, most appealing ones, who are in urgent need of help, so the gaps are at once filled. If every nurse in the country would give her contribution at once, the Fund could do more than

ease the way slightly for those who are in desperate straits. We are hoping that all the chairmen of state Relief Fund committees will be very active during the fall meetings.

FUND FOR AN INTERSTATE SECRETARY

It will be remembered by those who attended the League meetings at Atlanta, that a committee was appointed to confer with the various state associations to see whether sufficient contributions could be obtained to continue the work of the Interstate Secretary. Neither the JOURNAL, the League nor the American Nurses' Association can at present contribute to this fund which they have maintained jointly for the past two years, but the Interstate Secretary's work has been of such great value that the delegates at Atlanta felt it should not be allowed to stop if the states could continue it. Miss McMillan, chairman of the committee, reports that contributions have been received from California, Illinois, Ohio and Wisconsin. Pledges to try and contribute have been received from Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon and Washington. Where does your state stand? Does the east not need an interstate secretary?

State associations should not be misled into thinking that in contributing, they are making sure of another visit from Miss Eldredge. Miss Eldredge's term has expired, and though many hope that she will again be appointed, it is not at all certain that she will be available, especially as no appointment can be made before January. The contributions asked are for *an* interstate secretary.

States that have already gathered something for this fund are asked to report the amount to Miss M. Helena McMillan, Presbyterian Hospital, Chicago. Other states are asked to write her whether they can be counted upon for contributions later.

A QUESTION FOR PRIVATE DUTY NURSES

A correspondent asks how the hours of duty should be arranged when two or more nurses are on a case. Should they be arranged by the family, by the doctor, or by conference and agreement between the nurses? We should think that all are interested and all should be consulted, but we should like to receive some "letters to the editor" on this subject by nurses directly concerned with the problem.